# EPI Update for Friday, August 16, 2013 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

## Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Nationwide recall: Cedar Park (Texas) compounding pharmacy
- The tapeworm diet
- Adult blood lead guidelines
- And the award goes to...
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

### Nationwide recall: Cedar Park (Texas) compounding pharmacy

FDA notification of a recall of all products produced and distributed for sterile use by Specialty Compounding, LLC, Cedar Park, Texas. There have been recent reports of bacterial bloodstream infections potentially related to the company's calcium gluconate infusions. Information provided by the firm stated that the recalled were distributed directly to patients nationwide (with the exception of North Carolina). For more information, visit: <a href="www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm364643.htm?source=govdelivery">www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm364643.htm?source=govdelivery</a>

#### The "tapeworm" diet

Recently an lowa health care provider consulted with IDPH about a patient who had deliberately ingested a tapeworm (probably a scolex) that she had obtained via the internet. Tapeworm infections are usually caused by ingesting food or water contaminated with tapeworm eggs or larvae, and is associated with weight loss. Despite the risks associated with tapeworms, patients can find suppliers of this tapeworm in order to as a weight lose strategy.

Ingesting tapeworms is extremely risky and can cause a wide range of undesirable side effects, including rare deaths. Those desiring to lose weight are advised to stick with proven weight loss methods; consuming fewer calories and increasing physical activity.

### Adult blood lead guidelines

New Management Guidelines for Blood Lead Levels in Adults is available at <a href="mailto:c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/OccupationalHealth/ManagementGuidelinesforadult.pdf">c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/OccupationalHealth/ManagementGuidelinesforadult.pdf</a>. All blood lead test results are reportable in lowa. For more information call 515-281-4930 or 800-972-2026 and ask for Kathy. For more information, visit: <a href="https://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/">www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/</a>.

#### And the award goes to...

On the coattails of what has been a feces-filled summer for IDPH and local health departments, lowa has been "awarded" the "prestigious" trifecta for gastrointestinal illness according to *Food Safety News*. Iowa was chosen for this "honor" based on the state's three simultaneous outbreaks of *Cyclospora*, *Salmonella*, and *Cryptosporidia*. While this award is well-respected in the public health community, being chosen sure seems to be a real crapshoot...

## Meeting announcements and training opportunities

**Course on preventing workplace violence**; a new free on-line course for nurses is available, using text, videos depicting workplace violence incidents, testimonials from real nurses, and lesson quizzes in 13 units (15 minutes each). Continuing education credits are available. For more information, visit:

www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/violence/training\_nurses.html.

#### Have a fun and healthy week!

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